

Summary

THE DEATH PENALTY

The capital punishment is still a controversial topic in the Czech Republic as well as in the rest of the world today. Even though there are currently 139 countries that do not impose the death penalty by law or as a matter of practice, 58 countries continue to authorise the death penalty for a variety of crimes, including murder, adultery, corruption, rape and robbery.

The purpose of my thesis is to analyse the main aspects of the death penalty in order to create a complex view of the issue. In addition to that, I attempted to look at the problem from an original point of view.

The thesis is composed of eight chapters. Chapter One is the introduction to the topic.

Chapter Two looks at the death penalty in the world today. The chapter is divided into several subchapters characterising the death penalty in the world today in general, the capital punishment and the juveniles, the scope of the death penalty, the capital punishment in practice and the international treaties.

Chapter Three summarises the history of the legislation concerning the death penalty in the Czechoslovakia.

Chapter Four is subdivided into two main parts. The first part describes the main theories concerning the purpose of the punishment in general. The second part examines relevant Czech legislation dealing with the subject.

Chapter Five concentrates on life imprisonment and focuses mainly on the situation in the Czech Republic. It includes subchapters dealing with the relevant Czech legislation, the personal characteristics of the convicted, the crimes they committed and views of judges and prosecutors on the topic.

Chapter Six discusses the main arguments of both the retentionists and abolitionists.

Chapter Seven illustrates the public opinion on the problem. The first subchapter examines the role of the public opinion, changing of the public opinion and the need for information. The other subchapters describe the public opinion in several countries around the world today.

Chapter Eight is the conclusion.